

Title (en)
LAUNCHING OF HIGH ALTITUDE AIRSHIPS

Title (de)
STARTVERFAHREN FÜR HOCHFLIEGENDE LUFTSCHIFFE

Title (fr)
LANCEMENT DE DIRIGEABLES DE HAUTE ALTITUDE

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Application
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Abstract (en)
[origin: US6568631B1] A method of launching inflatable airship apparatus (3) for subsequent ascent to high altitude for operation as an airship having a hull (4) formed from an inflated flexible gas containment envelope (5), payload (15), drive motor (6) mounted at the stern of the hull and cables (26,27), for supporting the payload (15) within the hull (4), connected to the drive motor (6) and to the hull at, or adjacent to, a nose portion of the hull. The method comprises partially inflating the gas containment envelope (5) with a lighter than air gaseous medium to cause the nose portion to rise within a vertical launch enclosure (10) to position the partially inflated gas containment envelope (5) in a launch position, and subsequently releasing the partially inflated gas containment envelope (5) from its launch position through an open top of the vertical enclosure so that the envelope ascends clear of the vertical enclosure (10) and lifts the payload means (15) and drive motor (6) by means of the cables. The invention also relates to inflatable airship apparatus (3) and to a launch station (2) for launching inflatable airship apparatus.

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